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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,844	01/14/2002	Richard Jay	30314/89	1147

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EXAMINER

TRAN, KHOA H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,844

Applicant(s)

JAY, RICHARD

Examiner

Khoa Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Specification

The specification is objected to because on page 4, line 9, "male/female" should be --female/male-- because the forward engagement is a female engagement and the rear engagement is a male engagement. On page 8, at the beginning of line 19, numeral "0" should be deleted because it appears to be a typographical error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because there is no support for the forward engagement means being a male engagement and the rear engagement means being a female engagement. See lines 16-18. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed. In particular, the specification fails to provide any written description of what specific element constitutes the front and rear engagement means.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. With respect to line 7 of claims 1 and 7, the claims recite a "means" without reciting a corresponding function to be performed and thus it's unclear whether or not the claim limitation is intended to invoke the 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. Further, the claim appears to be misdescriptive and/or inaccurate because it is unclear how the front engagement means of the intermediate section engages with the rear engagement means at the rear of the back section when the intermediate section is engaged at the front of the back section in order to connect the front and the back sections together as set forth on lines 9-10. With respect to claim 5, the claim appears to be misdescriptive and/or inaccurate because the forward engagement means has been defined as the female engagement and lines 3-4 of claim 5 inadvertently recites the forward engagement as the male engagement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Primiano et al. Primiano et al. disclose a depth-extendable display track unit (10) consisting of at least two essentially identical standard depth display tracks for forming a single depth extended display track, each of the essentially identical standard depth display track comprising;

- a front section (12) having a stop means (34);

- a rear end section (22) having a forward engagement means;

- a breakaway back section (20) having a forward end and a rear end, see Figure 1, the forward end of the breakaway back section having a forward male engagement means of tongue members and the rear end of the breakaway back section having rear engagement means of grooves that connect to the forward engagement means;

- a plurality of interconnecting series of breakaway intermediate sections (14, 16, 18) connecting the front (12) and back (20) sections; each breakaway intermediate section having a forward end and a rear end, the forward end of the breakaway intermediate section has a forward engagement means of tongue members and the rear end of the breakaway intermediate section has rear engagement means of grooves that engage with the forward engagement means;

Regarding claims 4 and 7, Primiano et al. illustrate that at least one of the intermediate sections (18) is differing in depth from at least one other of the intermediate section (16), see Figure 1.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flum et al. ('042). Flum et al. ('042) disclose a depth-extendable display track unit (10) consisting of at least two essentially identical standard depth display tracks detachably connected in side-by-side relationship for forming a single depth extended display track, each set of the essentially identical standard depth display track (10) comprising;

a front section (16);

a breakaway back section (14) having rearward male engagement means (38) and forward female engagement means (44);

an interconnected series of breakaway intermediate sections (12, 16) connecting to the front and back sections having forward female engagement means (44) and rearward male engagement means (38), wherein the rearward and forward engagement means are dimensionally configured and cooperatively forming a male and female engagement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Primiano et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 above, and further in view of Parham

('221). Primiano et al. do not teach the male and female engagement means are disposed below a supporting surface. However Parham ('221) teach a male (52) and female (60) engagement means disposed below a supporting surface, see Figures 2, 3, and 6. I would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the male and female engagement means of Primiano et al. to be located below the supporting surface as taught by Parham in order to form a continuous floor for slidably supporting articles thereon.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Spamer et al. ('094) is cited to show the male and female devices that disposed below a supporting surface.

Response to Amendment

Applicants' arguments filed on August 11, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

With respect to the drawing objection, applicant's explanation is found to be persuasive and therefore the drawing objection has been withdrawn.

With respect to applicant's remarks that the applicant does not understand precisely what is the examiner's objection to line 7 of claims 1 and 7, it should be noted that the "means" recitation fails to recite a corresponding function, i.e., "means for..." and therefore the broadest reasonable interpretation will not be limited to the specifically disclosed structure and equivalents thereof.

With respect to applicant's request on page 4, first paragraph, that the examiner should point out in the reference of Primiano et al. any portion that suggests that any

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segments of a second display track may be combined with a first display track, applicant's attention is directed to column 3, lines 20-24, wherein Primiano et al. state that more than one tracks (10) are interconnected in a side-by-side relationship.

Finally, applicant should note that it is the language of the claims that determines patentability for the disclosed invention and the law of anticipation only requires that a claim "read on" something disclosed in the prior art reference in order for anticipation to exist and it appears that the breakaway back section (20) meets the claim limitation as has been advanced by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoa Tran whose telephone number is (703) 306-3437. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola, can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for this Group before a final Office action is (703) 872-9326 and after a final Office action is (703) 872-9327.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Khoa Tran

November 14, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. Stodola".

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600